

SAINT VINCENT HEALTH CENTER

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February 15, 2008

To the Public:

Saint Vincent Health Center supports efforts towards transparency in quality, and is supportive of efforts to report hospital acquired infections, as we are supportive of other reports by PHC4 such as the Hospital Effectiveness Report or the Open Heart Report.

This PHC4 Infection Report does not use any form of risk adjustment, as opposed to other PHC4 reports which do. We believe some adjustment for patient severity and condition might improve comparability in infection rates. Our internal data shows some highly statistical patient factors (such as diabetes and obesity) correlating with higher infection rates.

For the past 2 years, PHC4 has combined data our acute care hospital with data from our rehabilitation hospital, even though the Hospital-Acquired Infections report is only for acute care hospitals. We feel that Rehabilitation patients should be excluded, as these patients are very different than acute care patients. They are more chronically ill and debilitated, stay in the hospital for much longer periods and have a much higher risk for developing certain infections, such as urinary tract infections and diarrhea. Combining their data with acute care data skews the apparent results, providing misleading information for comparison and quality improvement.

On the attached table, we have restated the analysis as we believe it should be done. Our Acute Hospital Only data would be most appropriately compared with Peer Group 2.

We are very proud of our work to decrease hospital-acquired infections and have made reduction in serious hospital-related infections a priority at Saint Vincent Health Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "HN Nadworny MD".

Howard Nadworny, MD FACP  
Chair, Infection Control Committee

Attachment

	PHC4 Data		Rehab Only		Acute Hospital Only		Peer Group 2 Infection Rate per 1,000 Cases
	Number of Cases	Infection Rate per 1,000 Cases	Number of Cases	Infection Rate per 1,000 Cases	Number of Cases	Infection Rate per 1,000 Cases	
<b>Saint Vincent Health</b>	<b>15,113</b>		<b>671</b>		<b>14,442</b>		<b>374,109</b>
Cases with Infection	324	21.4	72	107.3	249	17.2	18.1
Urinary Tract	145	9.6	59	87.9	85	5.9	7.7
(device-associated)	75	5.0	7	10.4	70	4.8	5.8
(non device-associated)	70	4.6	52	77.5	15	1.0	1.9
Pneumonia	48	3.2	0	0.0	48	3.3	2.5
(device-associated)	6	0.4	0	0.0	6	0.4	0.6
(non device-associated)	42	2.8	0	0.0	42	2.9	1.9
Bloodstream	11	0.7	0	0.0	11	0.8	1.5
(device-associated)	4	0.3	0	0.0	4	0.3	0.9
(non device-associated)	7	0.5	0	0.0	7	0.5	0.5
Surgical Site	28	5.9	0	0.0	29	6.1	4.4
Gastrointestinal	39	2.6	12	17.9	28	1.9	2.5
Other Infections	23	1.5	0	0.0	19	1.3	0.7
Multiple	30	2.0	1	1.5	29	2.0	2.1